

ST. CLAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING JANUARY 13, 2026

The St. Clair County Commission met in regular session on January 13, 2026, in the St. Clair County Commission Chambers of the St. Clair County Administrative Building Annex #1 in Ashville, Alabama.

Members Present: Stanley D. Batemon, Chairman
Jeff Brown, Commissioner District One
Ricky Parker, Commissioner District Two
Joey Stevens, Commissioner District Three
Bob Mize, Commissioner District Four

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tina Morgan, Administrator
Corey Phillips, Assistant Deputy Administrator
Michelle Layfield, Chief Financial Officer
Kirk Walker, County Attorney
Kyle Barrentine, County Attorney
Dan Dahlke, Engineer
Clay Phillips, Assistant Engineer
Glenn Morgan, IT
David Atchison, St. Clair Times
Candice Hill, St. Clair EDC
Payton Frederick, Sheriff's Office
Katrina Hennings, Springville City Council
Richard Rybka, Coosa Riverkeepers
Mike Mitchell, Waste Management
Anna Leigh Cline, Juvenile Probation
Tammy Gibbs, Juvenile Probation
Chey Garrigan, Citizen

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Stanley D. Batemon declared a quorum present at 9:09 a.m. and called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the agenda be approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting on December 23, 2025, be approved.

CANDICE HILL, EDC GRANTS AND LEADERSHIP DIRETOR'S REPORT

Updates on the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant & discussed the upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. to present the new BUILD grant application to Senator Britt's office.

ANNA LEIGH CLINE, CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Anna Leigh gave updates on juvenile detention program and made a request for the appropriation in the amount of \$10,000.00 per year for their eHawk contract for program software to track & communicate with juveniles.

Consider the recommendation of Chairman Batemon to approve the appropriation request from Chief Juvenile Probation Office Anna Leigh Cline in the amount of \$10,000.00 for an eHawk program software contract used to track & communicate with juveniles. Commissioner Mize made a motion to approve, pending county attorney review, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that an appropriation in the amount of \$10,000.00/year, per the recommendation of Chairman Batemon, for juvenile detention's eHawk program software contract, pending the county attorney's review is approved. (Contract to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #1)

Anna Leigh also made a request for a full-time secretary. This item will be discussed at the next county work session on January 22, 2026.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The first item of the Engineer's report was an informational item on road crews and projects.

The next item of the Engineer's report was to approve the completion of paperwork with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to extend the completion date to June 30, 2026, for Wolf Creek Road cleanup due to tornado damage. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that completing paperwork with NRCS to extend the Wolf Creek Road cleanup completion date to June 30, 2026, is approved.

The next item of the Engineer's report was to consider recommendations for vacant road worker I positions:

- Jamie Blackburn
- Hunter Brown
- Johnathan Reynolds
- Drake Sanderson
- Lane Taylor
- Dennis Watts

On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that recommendations for the above vacant road worker I positions are approved. (Letter to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #2)

The next item of the Engineer's report was to consider approval of the FY25 County Rebuild Alabama Annual Report (CRAAR). On a motion by

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Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the FY25 CRAAR is approved. (Document to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #3)

The next item of the Engineer's report was to consider approval of a proposal from Sain & Associates to do a benefit cost analysis for the BUILD grant application to widen a portion of US HWY 411 in the amount of \$25,000.00. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that a proposal from Sain & Associates to do a benefit cost analysis for the BUILD grant application to widen a portion of US HWY 411 is approved. (Document to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #4)

The next item of the Engineer's report was to consider authorizing County Engineer Dan Dahlke to engage with an architect/architects to design a pole barn at the road department campus. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that authorizing County Engineer Dan Dahlke to engage with an architect/architects to design a pole barn at the road department campus is approved.

Informational item to be recorded in the minutes: A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15 at 1:00 p.m. with Alabama Power to discuss upgrades on Saine Road & proposed road closures.

Informational item to be recorded in the minutes: The County has been awarded a Safe Roads for All (SS4A) grant in the amount of \$504,000.00 (\$630,000.00 with a local match) for developing a new action plan, supplemental planning & demonstration activities.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The first item of the Administrator's report was to consider approval of an agreement (hold harmless) with Keira Callendar due to the request Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director Patrice Kurzejeski received from the Jacksonville State University student to complete her EMA internship. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that an agreement (hold harmless) with Jacksonville State University student Keira Callendar to complete her EMA internship with the County's EMA division is approved. (Agreement to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #5)

Informational item to be recorded in the minutes: Sheriff Murray plans to purchase a 2026 Chevy Tahoe with pistol permit funds from the State Bid list.

Informational item to be recorded in the minutes: The City of Ashville requested their 5% radio subsidy, pursuant to County Resolution 2024-18, in the amount of \$1,365.03. The radios purchased are compatible with the P25 radio system.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The first item of the County Attorney's report was to consider the request from the City of Ashville to adopt Resolution 2026-15 for a loan agreement in the amount of \$150,000.00 for their park improvement project. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Resolution 2026-15 for a loan agreement in the amount of \$150,000.00 for the City of Ashville's park improvement project be adopted. (Resolution to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #6)

The next item of the County Attorney's report was to consider the request from the City of Ashville to adopt Resolution 2026-16 for a 20% match for their Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP) II project in downtown Ashville in the amount of \$34,200.00. On a motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Resolution 2026-16 for the 20% match for the City of Ashville's ATRIP II project in downtown Ashville in the amount of \$34,200.00 be adopted. (Resolution to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #7)

OLD BUSINESS

The first item of old business was to consider the request of Trade name: The Tobacco and Beverage Outlet for approval of Type license: 050 Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and Type license: 070 Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) for Applicant: Magnificent, LLC located at 21551 US Highway 231 Ragland, AL 35131. Tabled by Commissioner Stevens at the commission meeting on December 23, 2025. On a motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Trade name: The Tobacco and Beverage Outlet & Type license: 050 Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and Type license: 070 Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) for Applicant: Magnificent, LLC located at 21551 US Highway 231 Ragland, AL 35131, is approved.

The next item of old business was to consider the request of Trade name: CCS 2 Food Mart for approval of Type license: 050 Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and Type license: 070 Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) for Applicant: Elevate Business, LLC located at 21403 US Highway 231 Ragland, AL 35131. Tabled by Commissioner Stevens at the commission meeting on December 23, 2025. On a motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Trade name: CCS 2 Food Mart for Type license: 050 Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and Type license: 070 Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) for Applicant: Elevate Business, LLC located at 21403 US Highway 231 Ragland, AL 35131, is approved.

The next item of old business was to consider the request of Trade name: CCS 2 Package Store for approval of Type license: 011 Lounge Retail Liquor Class II (Package) and Type license: 990 Tobacco Only for Applicant: Elevate Business, LLC located at 21403A US Highway 231 Ragland, AL 35131. Tabled by Commissioner Stevens at the commission

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meeting on December 23, 2025. On a motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Trade name: CCS 2 Package Store for approval of Type license: 011 Lounge Retail Liquor Class II (Package) and Type license: 990 Tobacco Only for Applicant: Elevate Business, LLC located at 21403A US Highway 231 Ragland, AL 35131, be approved.

CHAIRMAN STAN BATEMON'S REPORT

Chairman Batemon discussed authorizing Sheriff Murray to engage with an architect/architects to design two buildings; One to store the community engagement vehicle and other assets, possibly in Pell City, and the other building designed with the disassembled hangar on the road department campus for storage of various equipment & supplies. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Sheriff Murray is authorized to engage with an architect/architects to design two buildings.

DISTRICT ONE, JEFF BROWN'S REPORT

NONE

DISTRICT TWO, RICKY PARKER'S REPORT

NONE

DISTRICT THREE, JOEY STEVENS' REPORT

NONE

DISTRICT FOUR, BOB MIZE'S REPORT

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

The first item of new business was to consider the request of Trade name: Shots on 11 for approval of Type license: 010 Lounge Retail Liquor-Class 1 for Applicant: Shots11, LLC located at 15180 US Highway 11 Springville, AL 35146. Commissioner Brown made a motion to table for two weeks, per county policy, seconded by Commissioner Stevens.

RESOLVED, that the request of Trade name: Shots on 11 for approval of Type license: 010 Lounge Retail Liquor-Class 1 for Applicant: Shots11, LLC located at 15180 US Highway 11 Springville, AL 35146, be tabled per county policy.

The next item was to consider the request of Trade name: Oh Sherri Island Pub for approval of Type license: 020 Restaurant Retail Liquor for Applicant: Oh Sherri Pub, LLC located at 1095 Coosa Island Road Cropwell, AL 35054. Commissioner Mize made a motion to table for two weeks, per county policy, seconded by Commissioner Parker.

RESOLVED, that the request of Trade name: Oh Sherri Island Pub for approval of Type license: 020 Restaurant Retail Liquor for Applicant: Oh Sherri Pub, LLC located at 1095 Coosa Island Road Cropwell, AL 35054 be tabled per county policy.

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The next item was to consider amending the Milner contract to include the AP (Accounts Payable) workflow portion for the commission office in the one-time amount of \$12,270.00 & the annual maintenance fee of \$1,790.00. The original Milner contract was approved on October 14, 2025. This is an exception to the bid law due to it being the only software that is compatible with SmartFusion the commission's accounting software. On a motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the Milner contract for the commission office be amended to include the AP workflow portion in the one-time amount of \$12,270.00 & the annual maintenance fee of \$1,790.00. (Contract to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #8)

The next item was to consider rescinding the hiring freeze for newly created positions, approved at the September 30, 2025, commission meeting. After the January budget review, the commission feels comfortable with rescinding the hiring freeze. On a motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the hiring freeze for newly created positions, approved at the September 30, 2025, work session be rescinded.

The next item was to consider increasing the mileage rate from 70 cents to 72.5 cents per mile for County use of a personal vehicle effective January 1, 2026, in accordance with St. Clair County Policy No. 2 (amended 1999), which bases the County mileage rate on the rate paid by the State of Alabama. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the mileage rate has increased from 70 cents to 72.5 cents per mile for County use of a personal vehicle effective January 1, 2026. (Letter to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #9)

The next item was to consider posting a public notice to reschedule the 1:00 p.m. January 22, 2026, work session to 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2026. The work session will be in Ashville. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that a public notice be posted to reschedule the 1:00 p.m. January 22, 2026, work session to 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2026, in Ashville.

The next item was to consider approval to record/live stream County work sessions, pending guidelines and/or the County Attorney's review. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that to record/live stream County work sessions are approved.

The next item was to consider amending the arena/event center facility rental contract to include age restrictions to rent, must be nineteen years of age or older, and a copy of their driver's license, pending the County Attorney's review. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all voting aye, it was

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RESOLVED, that the arena/event center facility rental contract be amended. (Contract to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #10)

The next item was to consider the request from Revenue Commissioner Ken Crowe to surplus a digital scanner and donate to the GUSC (Governmental Utility Services Corporation) of Moody. On a motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request from Revenue Commissioner Ken Crowe to surplus a digital scanner and donate to the GUSC of Moody is approved. (Document to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #11)

The next item was to consider the request of Glenn Morgan, IT (Information Technology) Manager, to renew the Phish firewall software for one year through SHI utilizing the OMNIA Partners cooperative contract #2024056-02 in the amount of \$6,784.00. This is employee cybersecurity training software. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Glenn Morgan, IT Manager, to renew the Phish firewall software for one year is approved. (Agreement to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #12)

The next item was to consider the request from Probate employee Angela Strickland, for approval of the Declaration of Emergency Sick leave. On a motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request for the Declaration of Emergency Sick Leave of Probate Office employee, Angela Strickland, be approved.

The next item was to authorize Commissioner Brown to search for a location to construct a potential juvenile detention facility. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Commissioner Brown is authorized to search for a location to construct a potential juvenile detention facility.

The next item was to authorize Commissioner Stevens to engage an architect/architects to design a juvenile detention facility. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Commissioner Stevens is authorized to engage an architect/architects to design a juvenile detention facility.

The next item was to consider the request of Properties Manager Roddy Wolfe to surplus and dispose of an X-ray machine Inventory #8625. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Properties Manager Roddy Wolfe to surplus and dispose of an X-ray machine Inventory #8625 is

approved. (Document to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #13)

The next item was to consider the request of Properties Manager Roddy Wolfe to amend the Bagby Elevator contract due to the removal of the Ashville jail portion. On a motion by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that amending the Bagby Elevator contract due to the removal of the Ashville jail portion is approved. (Contract to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #14)

The next item was to authorize Properties Manager Roddy Wolfe to review and evaluate available square footage at the Pell City Courthouse for a potential construction project to add additional offices and storage. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Properties Manager Roddy Wolfe is authorized to review and evaluate available square footage at the Pell City Courthouse for a potential construction project to add additional offices and storage.

The next item was to approve the travel requests. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, the travel requests are approved. (Document is to be made as part of these minutes as Attachment #15)

Board Appointments

NONE

Informational item to be recorded in the minutes: Revenue Commissioner Ken Crowe is promoting the appraiser trainee (real property) to the real estate appraiser I position. This will not be a budget amendment.

The next item was to consider the request from Revenue Commissioner Ken Crowe to remove the appraiser trainee (real property) from the books. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request from Revenue Commissioner Ken Crowe to remove the appraiser trainee (real property) from the books is approved.

Informational item to be recorded in the minutes: Revenue Commissioner Ken Crowe to promote a real estate appraiser I into a real estate appraiser II position. This will not be a budget amendment.

Informational item to be recorded in the minutes: Revenue Commissioner Ken Crowe to increase the Mapper III (chief mapper) two steps. This will not be a budget amendment.

The next item for discussion was to approve payment of the monthly bills. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

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RESOLVED, that the monthly bills be approved for payment except for those that are questioned by the Commission before the close of business today.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned subject to call at approximately 10:27 a.m. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye.

{SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW}

Stanley D. Batemon, Chairman

Jeff Brown, Commissioner

Ricky Parker, Commissioner

Joey Stevens, Commissioner

Bob Mize, Commissioner